

AMENDMENT A AND CLAIM LISTING

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A screed mold method for making gelatinous elastomer gel cushioning articles, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining a screed mold,

the screed mold ~~having~~ having a rigid body,

the screed mold being an open face non-pressurized mold,

the screed mold having a honeycomb shape in said rigid body in which gel may be formed to take on a desired geometric structure,

the screed mold including a plurality of ~~crisscrossing~~ crisscrossing slots in said rigid body to form said honeycomb shape which ~~establishes~~ establishes a mold core,

~~obtaining~~ obtaining side rails,

attaching side rails to the perimeter of the mold in order to surround the perimeter of the mold with side rails,

obtaining access to an injection head,

said injection head having a plurality of distribution channels therein through which thermoplastic material may flow,

said distribution channels being subdivided into sub-distribution channels,

said distribution channels terminating in exit ports through which thermoplastic material may exit said injection head and enter said screed mold,

said injection head including at least one heating element within it for heating thermoplastic material,

positioning said injection head adjacent said screed mold in a location so that thermoplastic material may flow from said injection head distribution channels out of said exit ports and into said screed mold slots,

~~_____said injection head being supported by mechanical elements and motive elements to move the injection moldhead relative to the mold each other so that the heated thermoplastic material fills- said screed mold slots the crisscrossed slots,-~~

accessing a pumping source,

utilizing said pumping source to pressurize thermoplastic material and force it into said injection head, through said distribution channels of said injection head, out of said exit ports of said injection head, into said screed mold, through said slots in said screed mold and out of said screed mold,

recovering molded and cooled thermoplastic material from said screed mold in a desired geometric shape of a cushioning element.

2. (original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein said recovering step includes periodically terminating pumping of thermoplastic material into said screed mold, and during such period of termination, removing molded thermoplastic material from said screed mold.
3. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein said pumping is a continuous process, and molded thermoplastic material is recovered from said screed mold as unmolded ~~theremoplastic~~ thermoplastic material is forced into said screed mold.
4. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein molded ~~theremoplastic~~ thermoplastic material is recovered from said screed mold by cutting it as it exits said screed mold due to new thermoplastic material being forced into said screed mold.
5. (original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein at least some of said slots are cut not more than 80% of the way through said rigid body. ~~Said slots may also be formed by bolting square or rectangular blocks to a base plate.~~
6. (original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein at least some of said slots are cut all the way through said rigid body.
7. (original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein ~~said rigid body is metallic~~ said rigid body is metallic. ~~said screed mold slots are formed by bolting square or rectangular blocks to a base plate.~~
8. (original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein said rigid body is non-metallic.

9. (original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein at least some of said slots cross each other in an "X" configuration.

10. (original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein at least some of said slots cross each other in a "+" configuration.

11. (original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein said slots are sized to permit thermoplastic material to flow therethrough when heated.

12. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising at least one cooling channel in said ~~distribution~~ injection head.

13. (original) A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the step of establishing a desired distance between said distribution head and said screed mold prior to flow of thermoplastic material.

14. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein said ~~theremoplastic~~ thermoplastic material includes an A-B-A triblock copolymer.

15. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 14 wherein said ~~theremoplastic~~ thermoplastic material includes a plasticizer.

16. (currently amended) A screed mold method for making gelatinous elastomer gel cushioning articles, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining a screed mold,

the screed mold ~~having~~ having a rigid body,

the screed mold being an open face non-pressurized mold,

the screed mold having a structural shape in said rigid body in which gel may be formed to take on a desired geometric structure, said structural shape including slots in said rigid body,

obtaining access to an injection head,

said injection head having a plurality of distribution channels therein through which thermoplastic material may flow,

said distribution channels terminating in exit ports through which thermoplastic material may exit said injection head and enter said screed mold,

accessing a pumping source,

utilizing said pumping source to pressurize thermoplastic material and force it into said injection head, through said distribution channels of said injection head, out of said exit ports of said injection head, into said screed mold, through said slots in said screed mold and out of said screed mold, and

receiving a cushioning element molded by said screed mold.

17. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim [15] 16 wherein said ~~receiving~~ receiving step includes periodically terminating pumping of thermoplastic material into said screed mold, and during such period of termination, removing molded thermoplastic material from said screed mold.

18. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim [15] 16 wherein said pumping is a continuous process, and molded thermoplastic material is recovered from said screed

mold as unmolded ~~theremoplastic~~ thermoplastic material is forced into said screed mold.

19. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim [15] 16 wherein molded ~~theremoplastic~~ thermoplastic material is recovered from said screed mold by cutting it as it exits said screed mold due to new thermoplastic material being forced into said screed mold.

20. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim [15] 16 wherein at least some of said slots are cut not more than 80% of the way through said rigid body. ~~Said slots can also be formed by bolting square or rectangular blocks to a base plate.~~

21. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim [15] 16 wherein at least some of said slots are cut all the way through said rigid body.

22. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim [15] 16 wherein ~~said rigid body is metallic. said rigid body is metallic~~ said screed mold slots are formed by bolting square or rectangular blocks to a base plate.

23. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim [15] 16 wherein said rigid body is non-metallic.

24. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim [15] 16 wherein at least some of said slots cross each other in an "X" configuration.

25. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim [15] 16 wherein at least some of said slots cross each other in a "+" configuration.

26. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim [15] 16 wherein said slots are sized to permit thermoplastic material to flow therethrough when heated.

27. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim [15] 16 further comprising at least one cooling channel in said ~~distribution~~ injection head.

28. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim [15] 16 further comprising the step of establishing a desired distance between said distribution head and said screed mold prior to flow of thermoplastic material.

29. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim [15] 16 wherein said ~~theremoplastic~~ thermoplastic material includes an A-B-A triblock copolymer.

30. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 16 wherein said ~~theremoplastic~~ thermoplastic material includes a plasticizer.